

in serious counter-drug efforts and renewed calls for legalization—given encouragement by this administration's Surgeon General. The results of that indifference and incoherence are clear for anyone who wants to take a look at the recent reporting on youthful drug use in this country over the past 3½ years. The picture is sobering. The results are dramatic increases of drug use among kids. All the recent surveys confirm this. In addition, the forthcoming annual PRIDE survey will add further weight to the body of evidence.

In response to this fact, the congressional leadership, led by Bob Dole, commissioned a joint House-Senate task force last year to do what the administration has not done: develop a coherent view of what needs to be done. The task force report, which came out earlier this year, provides us with guidance on where we need to be going with our drug policy. In particular, as Congress now considers the international drug budget in its many parts, the report indicates the direction that we need to be taking to give us more coherence and sense of purpose in our efforts.

In the absence of meaningful policies from the administration, we have a responsibility to the public to make up for the deficit. As we construct our separate drug budgets, we must take this need into our deliberations.

In essence, our overall drug programs are an effort to build a fisherman's net—a web of programs, efforts, and policies that will catch and hold the school of drug problems. We must construct a balanced weave. One without gaping holes. One that is suited to the circumstances of our needs and our capabilities. The budget process is our net. It is here that we must ensure that we bring more consistency to our deliberations over the various parts of our drug budget to ensure that the result is more than the sum of its parts.

We need to ensure, as we balance the many conflicting needs represented in our budgets, that our drug program is adequately funded in its constituent elements. We must ensure that DOD bears responsibility for doing something more than it has recently in supporting drug operations. We must see that Customs programs along the Southwest border, in Puerto Rico, and in support of interdiction operations are adequately supported, after years of neglect. We need to refurbish DEA's international effort. We need to support Coast Guard's drug enforcement mission. We need to provide support to the efforts to develop a Midwest high intensity drug trafficking area to stem the flow of methamphetamine.

These things we can do more immediately. In the longer term, we in Congress need to exercise more vigorous oversight over present programs to ensure that the public is getting a proper return on its investment. We need more accountability. In the next days and weeks, as we work to do the people's business, we must keep in mind

our responsibility to provide adequate, consistent support to drug programs. In doing so, we help to put our drug policy back on track. We engaged a problem that we cannot afford to ignore or wish away. In responding, we must consider the net effect. I urge my colleagues to support funding for the programs I have mentioned above as we work on the appropriations bills before us.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LORET RUPPE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported House Joint Resolution 158, a joint resolution commending the Peace Corps and its volunteers for their 35 years of service to America and the world. I was especially pleased that my colleagues on the committee agreed to an amendment to this resolution offered by Senator DODD and myself which honors the memory of Loret Ruppe, the longest serving director of the Peace Corps. When I became director of the Peace Corps in 1989, I had the privilege of inheriting a corps that had been revitalized by Loret Ruppe's great leadership, vision, and dedication. Under her direction the Peace Corps began or revived programs in Sri Lanka, Haiti, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, and the Cape Verde Islands and she energized a new generation to take up the challenge of serving in the corps. Her great accomplishments and belief in the Peace Corps won the respect of volunteers and built bipartisan support for the Peace Corps' mission of peace through development. I feel that it is especially appropriate that the Members of this great legislative body, so many of whom on both sides of the aisle count themselves as admirers of this great woman, pass this resolution to stand as a testament to her great service to America and to the millions of the world's citizens touched by her efforts.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Kalbaugh, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

A message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1791. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to make certain technical corrections relating to physicians' services.

H.R. 3217. An act to provide for ballast water management to prevent the introduction and spread of nonindigenous species into the waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3452. An act to make certain laws applicable to the Executive Office of the President, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4083. An act to extend certain programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 1997.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 132. Concurrent resolution relating to the trial of Martin Pang for arson and felony murder.

H. Con. Res. 200. Concurrent resolution honoring the victims of the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

H. Con. Res. 212. Concurrent resolution endorsing the adoption by the European Parliament of a resolution supporting the Republic of China on Taiwan's efforts at joining the community of nations.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3539) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of the House bill (except section 501) and the Senate amendment (except